

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 14, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The period for response having been extended from August 14, 2004 until October 14, 2004 by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, the above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claim 2 is amended to be placed in independent form. Claims 1, 5-7, 10, 12, 13, 24, 26, 28, 40, 42 and 44 are canceled, without prejudice. No new matter is added. Thus, claims 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14-23, 25, 27, 29-39, 41, 43 and 45 presently are pending in the subject application, and respectfully are submitted for consideration.

As a preliminary matter, the Office Action indicated that claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14-23, 25, 27, 29-39, 41, 43 and 45 are allowed, and that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if amended to recite all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants amend claim 2 to recite the features of cancelled claim 1 and is hereby allowable. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the finding of allowable subject matter.

Claims 24, 26, 28, 40, 42 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants cancel these claims in the foregoing amendments. Thus, the objection is rendered moot.

Claims 1, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,805,585 (Javitt et al.). Claim 5 was rejected under 35

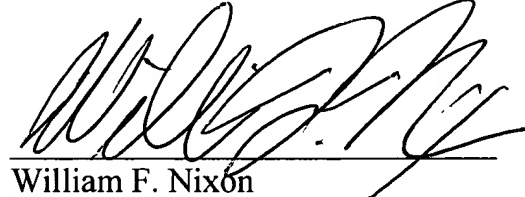
U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Javitt in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,396,516 (Padovani et al.). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Javitt in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,537,410 (Li). Claim 10 was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Javitt in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,745,520 (Love et al.). Applicants cancel these claims in the foregoing amendments. Thus, these rejections are rendered moot.

It is submitted that each of claims 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14-23, 25, 27, 29-39, 41, 43 and 45 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference, either alone or in combination. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14-23, 25, 27, 29-39, 41, 43 and 45 be allowed and passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William F. Nixon', written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension Time (2 months)